



## *The Old Ironsides Report*

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# 1-1 CAV Soldiers Rejuvenate Iraqi Schools

### Story and Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq—The desks were in pieces. The blackboards were broken. The windows were cracked. There were no doors, no fans, and little or no lighting. The electrical and plumbing systems were barely functioning. Yet the kids still came to school.

"That caught my attention," said Lt. Col. Charles E. Williams, commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division's 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment. "Even in these conditions, these kids were still eager to learn."

After observing the deplorable conditions in more than 30 schools, the soldiers of 1-1 CAV knew something had to be done.

"We wanted to pick an area of responsibility and this was something soldiers could focus on," said Williams. "At the schools, you got all the soldiers' attention, because they saw the faces of the children. Kids are the common bond of us all."

According to Williams, the schools, located on the rural outskirts of Iraq's capital city, had not been cared for in more than 30 years.

"Under the former regime, the schools in the city were the focus and these small ones outside of Baghdad just got what they could," he said. "A young soldier asked me, 'Can't we do something to help these kids?'"

The answer was "yes" and that started the ball rolling, said Williams.

Using U.S. funds, the soldiers of 1-1 CAV started doing initial repairs on 25 schools in May and June, before the end of the school year. The soldiers painted walls, replaced electrical wiring and plumbing systems and issued school supplies. Williams also had the squadron's doctor perform medical examinations on many children, invited parents to come visit the schools, and set up a job program where Iraqis could apply to work as school guards and interpreters.

As the summer progressed, Williams expanded the project. American contractors, Iraqi contractors, and 1AD engineers, working with 1AD's Task Force Wisdom project, also got involved. Together, they worked to install ceiling fans, lights, and security bars, replace broken glass, and repair flooring.

"This project has been very positive for the soldiers," said Williams. "The best way for a soldier to understand he's making a difference is something like this, because he can see it."

"Fixing the schools is a good start to the better future of Iraq," said Pfc. Charles B. Howard, a scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-1 CAV. "Reaching the kids will show that Americans are here to help."

Williams said he believes the projects have been beneficial to the Iraqi contractors, including one that was a former general in the Iraqi National Guard.

"We're getting the Iraqis to believe in themselves," he said.

Recently, Williams took the project a step further. Working with Maj. Gregg Softy, 1-1 CAV's operations officer, the squadron set up a Web site, *Iraqischools.com*. Calling itself the "grassroots volunteer effort to help the children of Iraq" the Web site encourages Americans to participate in the efforts to repair Iraqi schools by sending much-needed school supplies. The squadron also personally contacted several U.S. organizations, including schools, churches, and Boy and Girl Scouts troops, asking for help.

"The focus behind *Iraqischools.com* was to help soldiers understand we really are making a difference," said Williams. "We wanted to show the soldiers that the folks back home say 'we believe in what you're doing.' We also wanted to let the Iraqis know that the U.S. supports them."



**Lt. Col. Charles E. Williams, commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division's 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment, poses with an Iraqi boy outside the Manazara Elementary School in Baghdad, Iraq. Williams has spearheaded a campaign to improve Iraqi schools.**

"The focus behind *Iraqischools.com* was to help soldiers understand we really are making a difference," said Williams. "We wanted to show the soldiers that the folks back home say 'we believe in what you're doing.' We also wanted to let the Iraqis know that the U.S. supports them."

Already, the school supplies have started pouring in. Williams plans to distribute the supplies along with new desks by the start of the school year, Oct. 1. Williams is also hoping to set up a type of exchange program, where American organizations can adopt specific Iraqi schools.

"We want to tell a story to each child where the supplies came from," he said. "Then we can take a picture and send it back to the organization that sent it, so they can see who they are helping."

Though there is still work to be done in the schools, Williams says 1-1 CAV has made tremendous progress in the past few months.

"I have a six-year old child," he said. "I asked myself, 'Would I want my child to come to school here?' Now I can say 'yes.'"

## **A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety**

### **Transporting Local Nationals**

**We must ensure army standards are followed when transporting local nationals in army vehicles.**

- **Ensure local nationals are seated in vehicles**
- **They will not ride on top of equipment or materials**
- **Secure any heavy equipment or material**
- **Instruct local workers to keep arms and legs inside vehicle cab, or truck bed**

## NEWS

### Israel Says Killing Arafat Is an Option

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) - The second-ranking official in the Israeli government said Sunday that killing Yasser Arafat is an option, as thousands of Palestinians took to the streets across the West Bank and Gaza Strip promising to protect their leader. Israel blames Arafat for blocking peace efforts and preventing a crackdown against militants who have carried out two suicide bombings in the last week.

### Powell Sees 'Major New Threat' in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Secretary of State Colin Powell, on his first visit to Iraq since Saddam Hussein's ouster, said Sunday he was encouraged by progress toward self-rule, but that the country's porous borders are attracting saboteurs intent on undermining that goal. Meanwhile Sunday, attacks on American occupying forces, an almost daily occurrence in Iraq, continued when a roadside bomb hit a convoy in the city of Fallujah, killing one U.S. soldier and injuring three others, the military said.

### U.S. Warily Eyes Hurricane Isabel

MIAMI (AP) - Hurricane Isabel weakened slightly Sunday but still was a powerful Category 4 storm as it plowed across the Atlantic Ocean on a course that could slam it into the central East Coast late this week. "It's looking more and more likely that this is going to be a big event for the eastern United States," National Hurricane Center meteorologist Eric Blake said Sunday.

### Affleck, Lopez Reportedly Splitsville

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, the most overexposed couple on the planet, was supposed to exchange wedding vows Sunday - but instead there was a report that they had ended their tabloid-chronicled storybook romance. Amid the frantic speculation surrounding the pair last week, People magazine reported Sunday that Affleck has dumped Lopez due to "second thoughts" about their impending wedding.

### Sister of Venus, Serena Killed in Calif.



COMPTON, Calif. (AP) - An older sister of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams was shot to death early Sunday, authorities said. Yetunde Price, 31, was shot shortly after midnight in the Los Angeles suburb following a "confrontation" with some residents, Los Angeles County sheriff's Deputy Scott Butler said.



## SPORTS



### White Sox Down Red Sox 7-2

BOSTON (AP) -- Mark Buehrle pitched seven strong innings and Carlos Lee drove in three runs as the Chicago White Sox beat the Boston Red Sox 7-2 Sunday to remain tied for the AL Central lead. Chicago and Minnesota, which beat Cleveland 5-3, lead third-place Kansas City by 3 1/2 games.

## *Academy Football*

	<b>RUTGERS</b>	<b>36</b>
	<b>ARMY</b>	<b>21</b>

	<b>THE CITADEL</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>MARYLAND</b>	<b>61</b>

	<b>WILLIAM &amp; MARY</b>	<b>34</b>
	<b>VMI</b>	<b>24</b>

Source: SI.com

Love football? We've got extra pages with more scores!

### Chaplain's thought for the day: *Negative Thinking*

Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be. --Abraham Lincoln

Our negative thoughts can be like pebbles rolling down the mountainside. One pebble bumps into another one. The second begins rolling and slams into a third. On and on it goes until thousands of pebbles, rocks, even giant boulders are hurtling down the mountain. When we find ourselves stuck in a rut thinking a negative thought, we can decide to stop and replace it with a positive thought. At first our single positive thought may not dislodge another one. We may have to think of several and start them rolling down the mountainside. If we practice, we will find it becomes easier for that first good thought to shake loose others.

**We will see our lives change when we begin to look at the positive side of things.**

### *This Day in History* *September 15<sup>th</sup> 1940*

The Battle of Britain reaches its climax when the Royal Air Force (RAF) downs 56 invading German aircraft in two dogfights lasting less than an hour. The costly raid convinced the German high command that the Luftwaffe could not achieve air supremacy over Britain, and the next day daylight attacks were replaced with nighttime sorties as a concession of defeat. On September 19, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler postponed indefinitely "Operation Sea Lion"--the amphibious invasion of Britain. Although German air raids on London and other British cities would continue, the Battle of Britain was effectively won. By denying the Germans a quick victory and proving to America that increased arms support for Britain was not in vain, the outcome of the Battle of Britain greatly changed the course of World War II. As Churchill said of the RAF fliers during the Battle of Britain, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Source: historychannel.com


NFL Scoreboard  
Week 2: Sep. 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

FINAL			FINAL		
	BILLS (2-0)	38		BROWNS (0-2)	13
	JAGUARS (0-2)	17		RAVENS (1-1)	33
FINAL			FINAL		
	LIONS (1-1)	6		STEELERS (1-1)	20
	PACKERS (1-1)	31		CHIEFS (2-0)	41
FINAL			FINAL OT		
	TITANS (1-1)	7		49ERS (1-1)	24
	COLTS (2-0)	33		RAMS (1-1)	27
FINAL			FINAL		
	DOLPHINS (1-1)	21		TEXANS (1-1)	10
	JETS (0-2)	10		SAINTS (1-1)	31
FINAL			FINAL OT		
	REDSKINS (2-0)	33		PANTHERS (1-0)	12
	FALCONS (1-1)	31		BUCCANEERS (1-0)	9
FINAL			FINAL		
	SEAHAWKS (2-0)	38		BENGALS (0-1)	20
	CARDINALS (0-2)	0		RAIDERS (0-1)	23
FINAL			FINAL		
	BRONCOS (2-0)	37		PATRIOTS (0-1)	31
	CHARGERS (0-2)	13		EAGLES (0-1)	10
Halftime			Mon. 9:00 p.m. ET		
	BEARS (0-1)	10		COWBOYS (0-1)	
	VIKINGS (1-0)	17		GIANTS (1-0)	

Source: SI.com

# NCAA Top 25 College Football Scores

## Week 4: Sep. 9<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

<b>FINAL</b>  UNLV 23  WISCONSIN (14) 5	<b>FINAL</b>  PURDUE 16  WAKE FOREST (20) 10
<b>FINAL OT</b>  NC STATE (24) 38  OHIO ST. (3) 44	<b>FINAL</b>  ARKANSAS 38  TEXAS (6) 28
<b>FINAL</b>  BALL ST. 21  PITTSBURGH (11) 42	<b>FINAL</b>  IOWA (23) 40  IOWA ST. 21
<b>FINAL</b>  UMASS 7  KANSAS ST. (7) 38	<b>FINAL</b>  NOTRE DAME (15) 0  MICHIGAN (5) 38
<b>FINAL</b>  SOUTH CAROLINA (25) 7  GEORGIA (8) 31	<b>FINAL</b>  FRESNO ST. 28  OKLAHOMA (1) 52
<b>FINAL</b>  FLORIDA A&M 3  FLORIDA (19) 63	<b>FINAL</b>  EAST CAROLINA 3  MIAMI (FL) (2) 38
<b>FINAL</b>  PENN ST. 10  NEBRASKA (18) 18	<b>FINAL</b>  GEORGIA TECH 13  FLORIDA ST. (10) 14
<b>FINAL</b>  W. ILLINOIS 7  LSU (12) 35	<b>FINAL</b>  UTAH ST. 16  ARIZONA ST. (16) 26

Source: SI.com